



# Allentown

435 Hamilton Street  
Allentown, Pa. 18101

## Meeting Minutes

### Recreation Board

Thursday, June 5, 2025

8:00 AM

Cedar Beach Pavillion

(Minutes are a DRAFT until approved by the board.)

Meeting called to order by Nancy Wilt at 8:05 am

#### Roll Call

##### *Board Members & City Administration:*

x <u>    </u> Nancy Witt - Chair	<u>          </u> Zaleeae Sierra
x <u>    </u> Julie Ambrose-Secretary	x <u>          </u> Mike Comick
x <u>    </u> Ana Tiburcio	x <u>          </u> Josh Novak
x <u>    </u> Ray Nunez	x <u>          </u> Dave Snyder
x <u>    </u> Rebecca Kiss	<u>          </u> Hamp Smith
<u>      </u> City Council	x <u>          </u> Dave Eddinger
<u>      </u> Mike Hanlon (City Clerk)	<u>      </u> Mayor

##### *Parks and Recreation Staff in Attendance:*

*Brynne Heffner-Bair, Mandy Tolino, Brittini Kholi  
Allentown Parknership visitor, Ruffian Tittmann*

#### Minutes

*May 1, 2025, Minutes Approval with no additional changes or additions.*

Motion made by Becky

Seconded by Dave

**Motion Carried**

#### Communications

Introductions were made to welcome our two new members, Dave Eddinger and Ray Nunez.

There is one more open seat. Josh and Julie are serving in expired terms and need to be reappointed.

Five additional members have terms expiring next year. Nancy will make sure members are contacted to reapply for appointment.

#### P&R Reports

*Various Project Updates* – refer to the update documents provided.

*Director/Deputy Director Updates*

A few highlights:

- Repairing the boat launch at Canal Park – vehicles were getting stuck. Trying to do a quick fix for the season; then a more substantial repair in the off season.
- Franklin Park – got 5 proposals for design.
- Golf course – bunker project is completed.
- Skate Park – concrete poured for the first bowl.
- Next Wednesday is the next public meeting for the parks master plan.
- Dixon Street Bridge – design was approved; manufacturer is in production; trying to get a date for installation. Goal is to finish prior to the start of school.

##### *Recreation Highlights*

- Summer Hires are getting oriented; no issues with staffing; 2 pools are open.

- Playgrounds are ready for summer programming.
- Still hiring Field Rangers; have 3 interns in place.
- Summer basketball registration ends tomorrow.
- Juneteenth Activities planned.
- Concert Series began; moved to Active Life in bad weather.
- High number of pavilion rentals.
- Hosting MLB Pitch, Hit & Run in partnership with Allen High School.
- Movies in the Park started – Wicked at amphitheater tomorrow.
- Monday Funday a huge success at Stevens Park; 40 kids at Trout Creek.
- Youth Wrestling starting for boys & girls this summer.
- Yoga Fest – weather dependent – well organized.
- Meeting with Da Vinci – hope to have the mobile fab lab in the parks this summer.
- Dental Van going to the parks this year.
- Recruiting for Adventure Camps.
- Planning 4<sup>th</sup> of July for the park only – no programming in JBC.
- Allentown Shows Up Today – new partnership with the Mayor's Office – going to neighborhoods.
- Saturday, June 28 (Rain date 6/29) – big celebration in Stevens Park for new full court basketball courts funded through the Parknership.

**Old Business** - none

#### **New Business**

- Becky – what can be done about the poison hemlock that is spreading in many of the riparian buffers and beyond in the parks? Unfortunately, it spreads quickly. City sprays twice a year. Mandy will check with Maintenance Team; but Ruffian offered that this is a challenge in other parks too. Even though it is invasive, it serves the purpose of holding soil/water. Sometimes the cure isn't better than the situation we have. So, the question becomes, is the removal worse than keeping it?
- Josh – got clarity on the Allentown City Facebook/Instagram pages – to see skateboard pictures and videos of the project.
- Ray – What is the plan to deal with residents who become agitated at the pools? The manager situation was revamped this year to have more experienced adults with training in de-escalation; and not leave younger, less experienced staff to handle these situations.
- Dave E. – great to hear all of the programs and upgrades.
- Julie – welcomed Dave and Ray who bring terrific experience to the Commission.
- Nancy – Fundraiser for Pete at Inkwell with a Jazz Singer at 5:30 pm – all invited.

**Adjourn** – motion made by Josh/ Seconded by Becki. Meeting adjourned at 8:56 am.